ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

KHASI AND JAINTIA HILLS

FOR THE

Year 1876-77.

No. 1663, dated Shillong, 20th June 1877.

From—S. O. B. RIDSDALE, Esq., Secy. to the Chief Commr. of Assam,

To—T. H. THORNTON, Esq., D.C.L., C.S.I., Offg. Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

I AM directed to forward, for the consideration and orders of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council, a copy of the Annual Report on the Administration of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills for 1876-77, and a copy of the remarks of the Chief Commissioner thereon.

Dated Shillong, 13th June 1877.

RESOLUTION of the Chief Commissioner of Assam on the General Administration Report of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills District for the year 1876-77.

THE change of District Officers during the year most probably prevented the annual tour from being as extended as it would otherwise have been. Until the Chief Commissioner can station an officer at head-quarters during the winter months to relieve the Deputy Commissioner of routine work, he cannot expect that officer to inspect his district as thoroughly as is desirable.

2. The rains began somewhat late, but the fall was considerably above the average. Jowai, with 322·81 inches, again shows a rainfall

approaching that of Cherra Poonjee. The heavy rainfall did not apparently cause any damage to the crops, and the harvests gave a fair outturn.

3. The Chief Commissioner regrets to observe the very large falling off in the number of persons vaccinated during the year, as compared with the preceding year, the figures being respectively 754 and 1,817. The cause assigned by the Civil Surgeon may possibly account to some extent for this falling off, but Dr. O'Brien's absence during the greater part of the cold weather of 1876-77 resulted doubtless in a lessened activity on the part of the subordinate agency. Colonel Keatinge is not yet prepared to introduce compulsory vaccination into these hills.

4. The prices of food and labour appear to have remained almost stationary.

5. The imports during the year have been returned at Rupees 15,76,483, and the exports at Rupees 16,03,530, showing a difference in favour of exports of Rupees 27,047. The returns, however, seem be based on no organized system of registration of trade statistics, a cannot therefore, the Chief Commissioner thinks, be at all relied upo As compared with the preceding year, both imports and exports hav considerably fallen off. In 1875-76 the imports were returned Rupees 16,17,455, and the exports at Rupees 17,21,761, showing difference in favour of exports of Rupees 1,04,306; at the same ti both imports and exports are largely in excess of what they we 1874-75, and the Chief Commissioner thinks that the apparent d in trade is but temporary. There is every evidence of trade in hills being in a thriving condition, and capable of much expansion.

6. The answers of the Seims to the questions circulated amon them by the Deputy Commissioner are not very valuable from a statistical point of view; but they have, perhaps, been of some assistance to the Deputy Commissioner in ascertaining the general state of his district and the condition of its inhabitants. It is very satisfactory to learn that the careless lighting of jungle fires is becoming less common than heretofore. The absence of Marwari traders in these hills is a noteworthy fact. The reason for their avoidance of the hills is probably the rivalry of the Dacca traders, who are so near their own homes.

7. The Chief Commissioner has already, in separate Resolutions, reviewed the administration of police, criminal, and civil justice.

8. The income derived during the year from land, house-tax, and miscellaneous revenue amounted to Rupees 84,949, as compared with Rupees 91,775 for the preceding year, showing a falling off of Rupees 6,826. There was a falling off in the receipts from rents of lime-quarries alone of Rupees 7,892. The receipts from house-tax and forest revenue show an increase. The Deputy Commissioner should have noticed the different heads under which increase or decrease has occurred, and should

have commented thereon. The total excise revenue amounted to Rupees 1,216 against Rupees 1,069 in the preceding year. The revenue derived from stamps show a slight falling off of Rupees 279-13, as compared with 1875-76. The decrease is almost exclusively in court-fee stamps, which, if showing a decrease in litigiousness, is rather a matter for congratulation.

9. The Deputy Commissioner appears to have kept communications in repair as far as the funds at his disposal permitted.

10. The dispensary at Shillong seems still to maintain its character as a useful institution. During the year 72 "in-door" and 1,126 "out-door" patients were treated, as compared with 87 "in-door" and 962 "out-door" patients treated during the preceding year.

11. On the whole, the report on the administration of the district during the past year has left a favourable impression on the Chief Commissioner's mind.

No. 467, dated Shillong, 14th May 1877.

From—Major W. S. Clarke, Deputy Commr. of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills,

To—S. O. B. Ridsdale, Esq., Secy. to the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

I have the honor to submit the General Administration Report of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills for the year ending 31st March 1877.

2. The Deputy Commissioner's tour to the interior of the district extended over a period of 57 days as per margin.

Annual tours.

	Days.		Days.
Colonel Bivar, Deputy Commr.—		December 1876	0
		January 1877	8
April 1876	4	*Major W. S. Clarke, Deputy Commissioner.*—	
May „	0		
June „	8		
July „	14	February 1877	2
August „	0	March „	9
September 1876	1		57
October „	11		
November 1876	0		

In April Colonel Bivar, Deputy Commissioner, visited Maoflong and Nonglywai, selected areas for the growth of forest, and held local enquiry in connection with certain lands in dispute between the people of Maoflong and Nonglywai.

In June he proceeded to Cherra Poonjee in view to meet the headmen of the confederate State of Shella in Durbar, and to consult them in regard to the administration of the dependency, as also to inspect the Police Station there.

In July Colonel Bivar again proceeded to Cherra to appoint Wahadadars for the confederate state of Shella, and also to enquire into matters connected with the general administration of the dependency of Maoflong.

In September he visited the country bordering on the Shillong and Jowai road to ascertain the state of crops, and inspected the road work in progress.

In October Colonel Bivar proceeded to Jowai to take immediate charge of the Jaintia Hills from Extra Assistant Commissioner, Mr. J. B. Shadwell, and inspected the Jaintiapur road between Jowai and Jarain.

In January 1877 he visited Bholagunge at the foot of the hills, held an election for the appointment of Sirdars for the dependent State of Maoflong, and inspected the road from Cherra *viâ* Laittyngkote to Shillong; on the 30th January I relieved Colonel Bivar of the charge of the district, and that officer proceeded on furlough.

On the 27th February I proceeded to Nongspung *viâ* Maoflong and Sohiong to hold the election for a successor to the late U. Step Sing, Seim. The election was held on the 2nd March, marching *viâ* Maoflong to Cherra, which I reached on the 4th idem. I stayed at Cherra till the 6th, received a visit from U. Hajon Manick, Seim of Cherra, heard the current news in regard to matters at Cherra, visited and inspected the Police Station and the buildings still maintained at Cherra, and returned to Shillong on the 7th March 1877.

Weather and crops.

3. The weather during the year was seasonable; crops of all sorts yielded a fair harvest. The rainfall at the principal stations in the hills and the temperature as recorded at Shillong are as follow:—

RAINFALL.

Calendar year 1876.

Stations.	Average of last three years.	1876.
1. Shillong	83·65	95·30
2. Jowai	145·62	309·21
3. Cherra	368·41	394·92
Official year 1876-77.		
1. Shillong	82·93	116·51
2. Jowai	152·07	322·81
3. Cherra	364·53	391·85

Temperature.

	No.	Months.	Maximum average of last three years.	Minimum average of last three years.	1875 and 1876-77. Maximum mean of all highest.	1875 and 1876-77. Minimum mean of all lowest.
Calendar year.	1	January	54·80	40·99	53·30	43·20
	2	February	60·51	48·28	55·00	48·50
	3	March	63·17	57·27	62 90	58 90
	4	April	69·65	63·45	69·80	63·40
	5	May	70·73	65·02	70·30	63·80
	6	June	70·02	63·43	72·10	63 70
	7	July	74·33	68·73	72·60	67·80
	8	August	74·57	68·94	73·30	67·10
	9	September	72·56	70·52	71·90	66·10
	10	October	68·56	63.08	66·00	58·00
	11	November	61·70	53·70	61·00	52·00
	12	December	55·68	94·25	56·90	46·90
Official year.	13	January	53·93	42·39	56·68	46·70
	14	February	56 93	48·53	55 53	48·42
	15	March	63·44	57·64	62 38	53·25

The former, it will be noticed, was much above the recorded average of the three preceding years. The number of days on which rain fell during the year was 146, chiefly from May to September.

4. Several sharp shocks of earthquake were felt during the year, but none of them were serious or caused damage.

Public health and material condition of the people.

5. During the year under report hooping-cough and small-pox prevailed, the latter extending almost all over the hills and particularly in the Jaintia Hills, where it is reported to have been exceedingly virulent during the months of June, July, and August. There were some fatal cases from hooping-cough amongst the Khasi children in the village of Maokhar near Shillong. There were only two cases of cholera reported, they occurred in the Jaintia Hills.

6. Vaccination has not made favorable progress, the total number of children vaccinated during the year 1876 is 1,309 against 1,628 of the preceding year, 1875, showing a decrease of 319. Dr. O'Brien, the Civil Surgeon, attributes this to the fact that a great number of children had had the small-pox; he further states that there are many obstacles which have to be encountered in overcoming the prejudices and apathy of the people with regard to vaccination, and he advocates compulsory vaccination; but considering how, even in civilized England, obstruction is offered to vaccination by the lower classes, the objection on the part of the semi-barbarous people of these hills is not to be wondered at.

7. The material condition of the people may be said to be slowly improving, and in time, with good roads in every direction, increased trade with the hills, and a larger local demand, the progress will no doubt be annually more and more evident.

Emigration, immigration, and other internal movements of the people.

8. The Khasis and the Syntengs are not of migratory habits, they are much attached to their native hills and dread the hot climate of the bordering districts of the plains; immigration is at present nominal; foreigners from other parts come

up in small numbers in quest of employment, and a comparatively large number of the people pass through the hills from the Assam to the Sylhet side, and *vice versâ*. A good many of these are pilgrims visiting the shrines at Jaintia Kamaika, and Pursooram (Brahmakundo).

Prices of food and labour.

9. The following tabulated statements exhibit the ruling prices of the chief articles of food, as also of labour. From comparison of the figures with those of the preceding year, it will be seen that there has been a very slight fluctuation in prices.

Price of food.

Articles.	1875-76.	1876-77.
Rice	7½ to 13½ seers per rupee. ...	7½ to 14 seers per rupee.
Salt	4 to 6½ „ „ „ ...	4 to 6½ „ „ „
Fish, dried ...	2 to 4 „ „ „ ...	3 to 4 „ „ „
Beef	5 to 5½ „ „ „ ...	5 to 5½ „ „ „
Goat's flesh ...	3 to 3½ „ „ „ ...	3 to 3½ „ „ „
Pork	3 „ „ „ ...	3 „ „ „
Fowls, large ...	3 to 4 per rupee. ...	2 to 4 per rupee.
„ small ...	4 to 5 „ „ ...	4 to 5 „ „
Vegetable besides potatoes ...	3 to 4 seers per rupee. ...	3½ to 5 seers per rupee.
Potatoes ...	16 to 21 „ „ ...	16 to 24 „ „

Labour.

	1875-76.	1876-77.
Ordinary workmen.		
Males	6 to 8 annas per diem ...	6 to 8 annas per diem.
Females	3 to 5 „ „ „ ...	3 to 5 „ „ „
Porters.		
Males	8 to 12 „ „ „ ...	8 to 12 „ „ „
Females	6 „ „ „ ...	6 „ „ „
Skilled labourers.		
Carpenters ...	10 to 16 „ „ „ ...	8 to 18 „ „ „
Masons ...		
Blacksmiths ...		

Manufactures and mines, &c.

10. The manufactures of the district are very insignificant, consisting merely of the rude necessaries of Khasi life. The minerals, lime, coal, and iron, have been fully described by Colonel Bivar in his last report for the year

ending 31st March 1876. There has not been any perceptible increase in mining or quarrying operations. The lime trade is chiefly in the hands of Messrs. Inglis and Co. There is little or no demand beyond that of the residents of the hills for coal, while the iron trade, chiefly confined to the Khyrim State, is not increasing.

Trade and commerce.

11. The following Tables contain particulars of imports and exports during the year. The figures have been obtained partly from returns of trade for Bholagunge and Jaintiapoor, and partly by approximation from such accounts as could be given by local traders:—

Imports.

Articles.	Rates.	Quantities in maunds and numbers.	Value.
			Rs.
Brass pots and pans	.....	...	14,700
Country soaps	15 per maund.	1,200	18,000
Chura, or crushed rice	4-8 „	650	2,925
Cloths	.....	...	1,58,000
Coral beads	.....	...	18,100
Cows and oxen	.....	...	5,600
Castor oil	16 per maund.	125	2,000
Cocoanut oil	25 „	30	750
Do. hookas and miscellaneous Bengali-made goods, such as looking glasses, combs, brushes.	.....	...	2,500
Dal of sorts	6 per maund.	1,600	9,600
Eggs	.....	...	2,000
Earthen or crockery-ware and glass ...	.....	...	800
European stores	.....	...	16,600
Fish and dry fish	6 per maund.	35,900	2,15,400
Ghee	35 „	650	22,750
Grains	4 „	1,300	5,200
Gold	.....	...	6,500
Kerosine oil	22 per maund.	125	2,750
Molasses	7 „	2,800	19,600
Nails and ironmongery	20 „	900	18,000
Oil	18 „	1,700	30,600
Onions	6 „	800	4,800
Poultry	.....	...	12,500
Rice	3-8 per maund.	205,800	7,20,300
Salt...	7 „	12,000	84,000
Sugar	17-8 „	800	14,000
Spices	.....	...	1,000
Silver	.....	...	4,200
Sheep	.....	...	2,400
Tamarind	8 per maund.	26	208
Tea and coffee	.....	...	2,300
Tobacco	13 per maund.	4,800	62,400
Atta	7 „	10,000	70,000
Wines and liquors	.....	...	26,000
Total ...	.....	...	15,76,483

Exports.

Articles.	Rate.	Quantity in maund and number.	Value.
			Rs.
Bay leaves *alias* tezpat	2-8 per maund.	26,000	65,000
Betelnut and pan leaf	.....	...	95,600
Black pepper	1-8 per maund.	500	9,000
Boats	.....	...	7,000
Cinnamon	4 per maund	900	3,600
Chillies	8 „	2,600	20,800
Cotton	6 „	36,000	2,16,000
Fruits, jack and limes	.....	...	2,600
Garlic	.....	...	3,100
Hides	.....	...	1,200
Honey	15 per maund.	330	4,950
India rubber	40 „	200	8,000
Iron implements	.....	...	7,000
Lime-stones	300 per 1,000 mds.	1,600,000	4,80,000
Oranges	12 „ 3,000.	9,400,000	37,600
Potatoes	2-8 per maund.	200,500	5,01,250
Pineapples	.....	...	8,000
Sticklac	20 per maund.	5,000	1,00,000
Timber, bamboos, and canes... ...	.....	...	30,000
Turmeric	2 per maund.	700	1,400
Wax	55	26	1,430
		Total ...	16,03,530
Exports ...	.....	16,03,530	
Imports ...	.....	15,76,483	
Difference in favor of exports ...	.....	27,047	

12. The most valuable of the imports are cloths, Rupees 1,58,000; fish and dried fish, Rupees 2,15,400; rice, Rupees 7,20,300; salt, Rupees 84,000; tobacco Rupees 62,400, atta, Rupees 70,000; the values of any other articles imported are under Rupees 50,000.

There is a notable increased importation of cloths, Bengali-manufactured goods, European stores, oil, and atta.

13. The most valuable of the exported articles are cotton, Rupees 2,16,000; lime-stone, Rupees 4,80,000; potatoes, Rupees 5,01,250; and stick-lac, Rupees 1,00,000; bay leaves, Rupees 65,000; and betel-nut and pan leaf, Rupees 95,600. The increase in trade during the year is most apparent in the case of cotton, lime-stone, and oranges. According to the figures given by Colonel Bivar for 1875-76, the trade in bay leaf, stick-lac, and potatoes would seem in the year 1876-77 to have largely fallen off, but I do not really apprehend that this is the case, but rather that the difference of values as given by Colonel Bivar last year and in the present report is owing to inability to obtain accurate information.

14. It will be noticed that the value of exports is in excess of that of imports, this is evidently mainly owing to the trade in lime-

stone, a natural product. The Returns show to what a very large extent the hill people are dependent on the plains for rice, their staple article of food, dried and fresh fish, salt, and such necessaries; though they have on the other hand in the plains an excellent market for their most valuable industrial produce. On the whole the current of trade flows pretty equally between the hills and the plains. In the future, doubtless, the exports will be far the more valuable, local requirements being comparatively small when viewed alongside of the foreign demand, which would be limited probably only by the power to supply.

State of public feeling in general or special subjects.

15. The Khasias and the Syntengs were very quiet and well behaved, as also have been the Chiefs of the dependent States and their subjects.

16. The only memorable event during the year under report was the Proclamation of the assumption by Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen Victoria of the title of "Empress of India," in connection with which a Durbar was held at Shillong on the 1st of January 1877, and all the Seims, Wahadadars, Dollois, Lyngdohs, Sirdars, and headmen were in attendance, and certificates of honor were presented to such of them as had distinguished themselves by their loyalty towards the British Government or special services. On the whole public feeling generally may be represented as very satisfactory.

Public press, its tone and influence.

17. There is no public press in the district, and there is nothing to be noticed under this head.

Effect of administrative changes and arrangements.

18. Colonel Bivar was the Deputy Commissioner of the District until the 30th of January 1877, when I succeeded him in the charge. The Assistant Commissioners in charge of the Jaintia Hills were Mr. J. B. Shadwell and Captain F. Trotter, the former left the service in October last. Mr. Fisher, Extra Assistant Commissioner, was for a short time at the head-quarters at Shillong, he too has left the service. There have been no other changes.

Statistical enquiries.

19. Except with regard to vital statistics in certain limited areas, statistical enquiries have not been instituted in these hills. Colonel Bivar, in view to obtaining information on many interesting matters during the year 1876-77, circulated a list of questions to the several Chiefs to be answered by them, the result has been that replies have been received from ten of them, and from these the following information has been gathered:—

The crops in these States during the past year were indifferent.

The weather varied in different parts, less rain being reported in some, and a heavier fall than the last year reported in others.

The condition of the people is represented as "unchanged," indifferent, "miserable." Public health in some parts good, and in others the people are described as having suffered from fever and small-pox, and in the case of the State of Maharam from cholera.

The state of trade is reported to be slack, no estimate of the value of imported produce is attempted; the price of rice is given as fluctuating from Rupee 1 per maund in some parts to Rupees 3-8 in others.

The exports of hill produce are reported to be chiefly bay-leaves, potatoes, rice, India rubber (at Rupees 30 to Rupees 35 per maund), lac at Rupees 20 per maund, hoes and daoes, betel-nut, fowls, pineapples, oranges, pepper, cotton, honey, and dalchini.

The behaviour of the people is stated to have been good, literally no crime except petty offences of thefts and assaults appear to exist. In three of the States civil suits under a total value of Rupees 500 were disposed of in Durbar.

Thirteen accidental unnatural deaths were reported to have occurred, the largest number apparently from a landslip in the State of Maharam. It is stated that the careless lighting of jungle fires is tending to decrease consequent on the greater care taken of the forests: this, if true, is very satisfactory.

In two cases, Mylliem and Maharam, the population is said to be increasing, in the others not to be increasing. In two of the States, Nongkhlow and Mylliem, 15 schools are reported to exist. The number of students in the schools in the latter State tend to increase doubtless owing to its proximity to the station of Shillong, in and around which a comparatively larger number of the bĕtter class of Khasias reside or are employed, who send their children to school.

Few of the foreigners who came up to trade, are stated to take up their permanent residence in the hills. It is a curious circumstance that hardly a single Marwari merchant, a class of traders found in every corner of the plains of Assam where a pice is to be gained, is seen in these hills where it would be carried on by them.

In any of these States cultivation is not believed to be extending.

20. I beg to assure the Chief Commissioner that I fully appreciate the necessity for obtaining fairly accurate general information in all matters of interest from the Chiefs of several States, and I will endeavour in the present year to make the Seims interest themselves in collecting more reliable statistics for the information of Government.

Model farm and gardens.

21. The appointment of the Superintendent at the model farm was abolished during the year, and the establishment very much reduced, this was done on financial grounds, expensive experiments requiring a well-paid Superintendent not being able to be carried on.

22. The establishment at the present time consists of a Sirdar on Rupees 50, and a chowkidar on Rupees 10, the farm being under direct control of Mr. Gustav Mann, the Deputy Conservator of Forests.

23. There is the following live-stock on the farm:—

Hansi bulls	2
„ calves	3
„ cows	2
Bhootan bull	1
Khasi cows	6
„ bullocks	8
Munnipoori calf	1
Khasi calves	15
English ram	1
Nipalese sheep	15
„ lambs	10

The above are in good condition, and the young produce very thriving. Butter is supplied from the farm daily.

24. Experimental cultivation of wheat, oats, and barley has been tried during the year, and some of the wheat, particularly that raised from seed of a former locally grown crop, is good enough to warrant the conclusion that it might be grown successfully for market purposes. The oats and barley are poor, but there seems little doubt that good crops of either could be raised, where the soil is better than it is at Shillong.

25. Other experimental cultivation was discontinued, and the lands used for such cultivation planted out with exotic pine and fruit trees. Apple and pear trees were planted during the year, and there are now alive 35 of the former and nine of the latter. There have been upwards of 2,000 wild apple seedlings planted out in view to their being grafted hereafter. The cherry, nectarine, and plum trees are all apparently healthy and growing well.

26. There are eleven different kinds of exotic pine trees planted on the farm lands, these are doing well and in time to come will, the seed being carried by the wind, no doubt tend very much to change and improve the character of the forest in the neighbourhood of Shillong. A vegetable garden was kept up also at the farm, the produce being sold in the bazar. Turnips, radishes, cabbages, and brockoli found a ready sale, besides these and potatoes no other field or garden produce was sold.

27. Mr. Mann informs me that cattle-breeding was not intended to be undertaken at the farm; that the cattle were kept chiefly for the purpose of manure obtained, the land being so poor as to be unfit for cultivation without much manuring. However, of course, breeding could be carried on with little or no extra expense, and the cross of the best Khasi cattle with some of the finer Indian or English breeds would without doubt improve the hill breed, which are very poor milch cattle.

28. Sheep breeding was intended, but the original number imported was greatly reduced by disease, and much cannot be hoped for from the few now on the farm.

The lambs, six of which were dropped during the year, are thriving and appear to do well in the Upper Shillong climate.

29. Breeding of pigs was discontinued, and the English pigs at the farm were given to the Seim of Maharam, on the condition that they should be used for stock purposes and not be killed. I am sorry I am not able to say what the result has been, but it will doubtless be the improvement of the country breed, which though smaller than the English, is a very good one.

30. Mr. Mann is of opinion that the cost of labour is too high for farming to be remunerative, until the land at Shillong is thoroughly fertilized by several years of cultivation, and then that only such crops must be grown as yield a large outturn and command a comparatively high market price, and the cultivation of which can be efficiently supervised by Native Agency.

31. The forest plantations on the northern slopes of the Shillong range immediately behind the station, and across the Umkra, have been

well looked after, and the young pine forest is growing rapidly. On patches of abandoned cultivated land opportunity has been taken of the absence of thick grass and of the soil being loose to sow pine and oak, and these are in all cases doing well, the Umkra oak, red gum walnut and the maritime pine are all growing well. The area of this latter plantation according to survey is 262 acres which, as the trees are still young and have suffered no damage from fires, will in a few years be a fine pine forest.

General state of Police, crime, and civil justice.

32. Crime is tending to increase still, but little serious crime exists in these hills. In the British possession there was one case of murder, one attempt at murder, and one case of rape committed during the year. In the first case the offender was sentenced to transportation for life, and in the two others to terms of imprisonment of six and three years respectively.

33. Theft and house trespass were the most common description of offence dealt with: 168 persons in all were actually brought up before the Magistrates. The result of the trials generally was satisfactory, showing that the Police in cases cognizable by them had exercised intelligence, and that in other cases processes had been granted with due care.

34. With regard to civil justice, 89 suits were instituted during the year, *viz.*, 83 for money claims, two for immovable property, two for restitution of conjugal rights, and two in connection with religion and caste.

35. In the Political Court there were 31 cases tried during the year, namely, 13 civil and 18 criminal. Of the former nine were decided on their merits, in six of which judgments were given in favor of plaintiffs, and in three in favor of defendants. Two cases decreed on confession, one compromised, and one struck off the file on default. In the latter which include three cases of murder, three mischief by fire, two grievous hurt, one oppression, and one for causing the disappearance of evidence in a case of homicide, processes were issued against 60 persons, of whom 20 were convicted and 40 acquitted.

36. The details of the cases mentioned in the preceding paragraph are briefly as follow:—

Three cases of murder.

(1.) One U. Kamon of Lithang Poonjee in Elaka Khyrum was accused of having committed the murder of U. Wir of the same village; the case was sent up by the Police before the Magistrate, but the evidence adduced for prosecution was not conclusive, and it did not warrant the commitment of the accused to trial by the Deputy Commissioner in his capacity of Sessions Judge; the accused was accordingly discharged.

(2.) Two persons by name U. Dhor and U. Jeebon of Nongskhen in Elaka Khyrum were accused of having intentionally caused the death of one U. Teng of the same village. The Deputy Commissioner who tried the case in his capacity of a Sessions Judge having maturely considered the evidence in the case, was of opinion that the charge of murder was not established, and the accused parties were released.

(3.) One U. Pyrdi Sokhone of Nongritang in Elaka Nongstian, in the early part of the month of December last, armed himself with spear, and under some extraordinary mental excitement left his house, with the said weapon mortally wounded two persons, by name U. Langmit and Ka Mon, and thereby caused their death, the accused was found guilty and was sentenced to transportation for life.

Three cases of mischief by fire.

In these cases six persons were charged with the offence of mischief in reserved forests by fire, five of them were discharged for want of evidence, and one was sentenced to imprisonment with rigor for a term of one year.

Two cases of grievous hurt.

(1.) One U. Join Koorba of Marbisu was charged with the offence of voluntarily causing grievous hurt on the person of one U. Bormon of the village called Pyrda in the Elaka Nongkhan, the accused having thrown U. Bormon down, stamped on his chest; from the effect of injuries thus caused he died; the accused was sentenced to imprisonment for a period of five years.

(2.) On or about the 18th of January last the Seim of Mylliem sent four persons to fetch a man by name U. Dorja, who had been selected to marry the Seim's sister; when the messengers were at a place called Nongshyngier, they were attacked by a number of persons, evidently the relatives of the man of Dorja, who were opposed to the marriage; one of the messengers, U. Donkha was severely beaten and died about twelve days after. The offenders, numbering five in all, were sentenced to pay a fine of Rupees 10 each, or in default to suffer imprisonment for a term of 14 days. From the medical testimony it appeared that though beaten severely, the cause of death was pneumonia, and that no injuries likely to cause death had been received. The accused in this case had great provocation, and were consequently dealt leniently with.

One case of oppression.

This originated from a dispute about land situate in a locality named Umthlong, over which both the Lyngdoh of Sohiong and the Seim of the Nongkhlow claimed jurisdiction.

The complainants in this case who had a dispute about land in Umthlong with a fellow-villager, went to lay their complaint before the Seim of Nongkhlow, whereupon the accused, the Lyngdoh of Sohiong, with eight other persons, in view to the dispute being submitted to him for adjudication, seized three of the complainants' kinsmen, ill-treated them, and kept them in durance. The accused was sentenced to pay a fine of Rupees 50, while his companions were warned and discharged.

37. The rules for the administration of criminal and civil justice appear to work well. The Courts of the Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner are sufficient for the purposes of the work coming before them, and the system of village arbitration, while affording equal justice to the people, tends to keep them out of the regular Court and from becoming litigious, an end much to be desired.

Condition of the country as regards affairs connected with land and land revenue administration.

38. There were 24 estates in the revenue roll, yielding in the aggregate a total revenue of Rupees 223 as per margin, and the revenue demand for the year under report, together with the arrears on account of preceding year, amounted to Rupees 296, of this amount Rupees 286 was realized, and the balance of Rupees 10 was remitted.

		Rs.
14	Halabadi mehals	105
5	Rice land mehals in the Jaintia Hills ...	70
5	Building sites at Cherra Punjee ...	48
	Total ...	223

39. Besides the above a sum of Rupees 84,663 was realized and paid into the treasury on account of house-tax and miscellaneous revenue as detailed below :—

	Rs.
(1.) House-tax	13,714
(2.) Rent of lime quarries	67,266
(3.) Rent of fishery mehals, including arrears ...	3,321
(4.) Soopar or Sohbarpunjee rent	300
(5.) Rent of stone quarry in the Jaintia Hills ...	62
Total ...	84,663

and a further collection of Rupees 773 on account of forest revenue was derived from the following sources :—

	Rs.
(1.) Rent of cassia or wild cinnamon	103
(2.) Rent derived from Lakadong jack fruit plantation ...	18
(3.) Fees or profit realized on exportation of timber from Khasi States to the district of Kamrup ...	652
Total Rs. ...	773

Excise Administration.

40. The excise laws are applied in this district only within the limits of the stations of Shillong and Cherra, and in the Jaintia Hills.

41. The articles from which excise revenue was derived during the year were :—

1. Imported spirituous and fermented liquors.
2. Maddat.
3. Chandu.
4. Ganja.
5. Opium.

There were in all 18 excise licenses in force, namely, four for imported spirituous and fermented liquors, one for maddat, one for chandu, two for ganja, and ten for opium. The total revenue realized amounted to Rupees 1,216 against Rupees 1,069 of the previous year, showing a net increase of Rupees 147.

42. The Khasias and Syntengs are not addicted to the use of intoxicating drugs, which is confined to the people of the plains residing in British territory in the hills. There are no licensed distilleries in

this district, and the manufacture of country spirit is permitted both in the dependent States and Government territory; what is manufactured is mainly for home consumption.

Stamp Administration.

43. The subjoined table shows the particulars of sale of stamps and the revenue derived therefrom :—

Stamp Administration.

Description of stamps.	Amount.		
	Rs.	*a.*	*p.*
Receipt stamps	291	4	0
Hoondi or Bill stamps	13	8	0
Court fees or Judicial adhesive, and unpressed stamps...	1,557	5	0
Certificate stamps	87	0	0
Non-Judicial ditto	1,140	13	0
Ordinary postage ditto	4,507	0	0
Service postage ditto	4,951	0	0
Telegraph ditto	3,573	8	0
Total Rupees ...	16,121	6	0

There being no licensed vendors, stamps are sold at the Treasury in the Sudder and Sub-divisional Stations.

44. The rules regarding the sale, custody, and supply of stamps have been properly attended to; there have been no cases instituted for breach of the Stamp Laws, and there is no reason to believe that they are evaded.

45. The total expenditure in connection with the stamps revenue during the year amounted to Rupees 13-9, which was incurred in carriage of boxes containing stamps from Chattuck to Shillong.

Condition and effect of Railway irrigation works and other great public works.

46. There are no Railways or public irrigation works in this district. The only great public work which will tend more than anything to promote the advancement of the inhabitants of these hills is the cart-road which has now been opened between Shillong and Gauhati. The traffic on it steadily increases, the number of passengers up and down the road may be estimated at about 800 to 1,000 per month, and the number of carts already used on the road about 50. It has opened the sanatarium of Shillong up to the public residing in the Assam Valley in a manner almost exceeding expectation. The Tonga service landing passengers at Shillong in two days from Gauhati by a comfortable and easy carriage service, while for natives or passengers of poorer class cheaper conveyance by bullock cart is available.

The general state of communications, schools, dispensaries, libraries, museums &c.

47. *Communications.*—The general state of communications which are, in these hills in all cases, roads may be described as good, for the most part of the roads under the District Officer are good bridle paths and nothing more. The annual repairs have in every case been effected as far as the funds available would allow. The roads in the station consist of five cart-roads and bridle roads, all of which are maintained in especially good order.

48. *Schools.*—Including the Government Normal School at Cherra, there are in all 82 schools scattered over the hills. As the Returns and Reports which are annually submitted by the Head-Master of the Normal School and the Deputy Inspector of schools have not yet been received, I regret to be unable to give any information for the year under report.

49. *Dispensary.*—The Charitable Dispensary at Shillong, which was opened in November 1872, has been maintained throughout the year. The numbers of patients treated were—

Male			68
Female			4
	Total ...	...	72
Out patients—			
Male			1,043
Female			56
Children			27
	Total	...	1,126
	Grand Total	...	1,198

The diseases are chiefly fevers, rheumatism, syphilis, neuralgia, chest diseases (bronchitis), diseases of the teeth, dyspepsia, dysentery, worms, diarrhœa, constipation, splenitis, gonorrhœa, boils, itch, injuries, and ulcers. The number of deaths at the hospital were ten, which is a large proportion.

The premises are good and sufficient for all purposes, but applications for admission as in-patients are not more frequent here than elsewhere in Assam. Hospitals are dreaded by all semi-barbarous people, and it sometimes happens that an in-patient though rapidly recovering under treatment absconds before he is barely fit to be discharged; time and use to such institution alone will cause a greater appreciation of them.

Success or otherwise of Road Cess Committees, Education Committees, Municipalities, and other institutions, by which local Government is carried on.

50. There is a Committee for educational purposes in this district, but its work is nominal. The management of the schools lies entirely with Welsh Missionaries, the Government grant being made over in aid of the mission schools; the schools are however subject to inspection by the Deputy Commissioner, Inspector, and Deputy Inspector of Schools. They appear to be doing excellently. I have visited the Cherra and Jowai Schools on many previous occasions, and in the past year I visited and examined the classes of the schools at Cherra, and was much pleased with all I saw.

51. There is no Municipality yet at Shillong, it is much wanted, and the subject is being now considered.

Conduct of Chiefs and headmen.

52. My predecessor, Colonel Bivar, has spoken well of the conduct of all the Chiefs of the Khasi dependent States with the exception of the Chief of

8. Quantity and value of the exports and imports of the year are noted below:—

Exports.

		Rupees.
16,000	Maunds cotton	1,20,000
5,490	„ lac	54,900
532	„ potatoes	1,596
158	„ garlic	1,106
229	Loads earthen pots	687
125	„ moonga and other cloths, country-made ...	10,320
220	„ chillies	1,760
93	„ challdiang	372
246	Maunds turmeric	984
200	„ ginger	600
222	Cows	4,440
660	Loads mats	360
450	„ baskets.	450
	Total ...	1,97,575

Imports.

		Rs.
15,000	Maunds rice	60,000
6,229	Loads dried fish	35,344
5,287	Maunds salt	37,009
609	„ tobacco	44,872
496	„ oil	9,820
1,363	Pigeon	222
2,800	Fowls	700
330	Kids	600
280	Maunds molasses	1,960
2,280	Loads betel-nuts	4,560
660	Maunds sugar	9,900
429	Ducks	143
174	Maunds onions	878
342	Thalls and brass pots	600
	Cloths, cotton and woollen, from Sylhet and Calcutta...	81,000
	Moonga and Rymdia cloths from Assam ...	25,000
	Coral beads	15,000
	Gold	5,000
345	Loads cocoanut hookas	850
1,250	Cloth umbrellas	1,572
200	Maunds dall	10,000
40	„ soaps	500
	Shoes	70
	Total ...	3,45,600

These tables have been compiled from reports submitted by the Police stationed at Jerain on the Jaintiapur road, and from information collected from the chief traders of Jowai.

Trades and commerce.

The value of the imports exceeds that of the exports by Rupees 1,48,025.

State of feeling on general or special subjects.

9. The people of the Jaintia Hills have been quiet and well behaved, and I do not see reason to suppose that they have had any grounds for dissatisfaction.

Effects of Administration charges and arrangements.

10. I have been in charge of the sub-division for two months and four days. Mr. Shadwell, Extra Assistant Commissioner, held charge for six months and four days, and there was no officer at the sub-division for the remaining part of the year under report.

Model farms and gardens.

11. There are no model farms or gardens in the sub-division.

Administration—Crime.

12. A detail of the cases reported to the regular and village Police, and cases taken up direct by the Magistrate on complaint, are given below :—

9 Cases before the regular Police.
19 „ before the village
1 Case taken up direct by the Magistrate.

Of the cases reported to the regular Police—

2 Cases were reported false.
1 Case was reported in form C.
6 Cases were sent up for trial.

The principal offences have been theft.

Besides the above, 25 non-cognizable cases were disposed of by the Criminal Court and 30 by Dollois; the details of the latter are as follow :—

Assault	9
Gambling	8
Criminal trespass	3
Drunkenness	2
False complaint	4
Mischief	4
	30

The amount of fines levied by the Dollois was Rupees 140-6, all was recovered.

Disposed of by the Court 13, by 8 Dollois 133.

13. The number of civil suits disposed of by the Court and Dollois is shown in the margin.

There were 22 appeals this year from the orders of the Dollois, only five of which have been reversed.

14. The demand and collections of the year were Rupees 12,713 as shown below :—

	Rs.	*as.*	*p.*
Rent of fishery	1,592	0	0
„ Cassia Mehal	103	0	0
„ collection of jack fruit	18	0	0
„ rice land	70	2	0
„ stone-quarry	62	0	0
„ Halabadi	95	10	0
House-tax	10,654	0	0
Total ...	12,594	12	0
Arrears of previous years ...	118	4	0
Grand total ...	12,713	0	0

The whole of the amount was collected and paid into the Treasury before the close of the year. Of arrears of previous years Rupees 118-4 was realized, and balance Rupees 295 remitted under orders of the local Government, *vide* Revenue Department letter No. 1390R., dated 14th November 1876. The amount of commission paid to the Dollois for collecting house-tax amounted to Rupees 2,069-2-10. No charge was incurred in the collection of other revenue.

Manufacturer

15. No new manufactures have been introduced into the country during the year, and those already in existence have been noticed in former reports and therefore call for no further remarks.

General state and communication.

16. The principal road running through this sub-division from Shillong to Jaintiapur is in fair order. The road from Jowai to Surrarim *viâ* Dingling has not been repaired for several years past, and all the wooden bridges are reported to be in great disrepair.

Jungle fires have, I regret to say, been very extensive during the year under report; this is in the main attributable to the fact that the sub-division was without an officer from 28th October 1876 to 18th March 1877. Every endeavour will be made to lessen this evil.

Having held charge of the sub-division for so short a time, I do not feel qualified to express an opinion on the Punchayet system I may say however that from the little I have seen of it, the system seems popular enough with the people, and contending parties in most of the instances that have come under my notice have not been in the least degree reluctant to have their cases arbitrated on by a Punchayet.